

the greatest responsibilities in a free society is responsible stewardship of our natural environment. All of you have taken that duty seriously. You have set a clear and strong example, and you're inspiring others to do their part.

Tomorrow I'm going to Tennessee, in honor of Earth Day, to help volunteers restore the trails at Cades Cove. I'm looking forward to getting my hands dirty—[*laughter*]*—*looking forward to getting outside of Washington. [*Laughter*]

As volunteers, you've put your talents to good use. In Cairo, Georgia, you set up a science camp to promote recycling. In St. Paul, Virginia, you helped restore a newly named wetland and made it an outdoor classroom. In Oklahoma and California, you cleaned up debris around local creeks. You built nesting boxes to protect local birds in Staten Island, New York. You improved trout habitats in Hyrum, Utah. You started a project for the Fender's blue butterfly in Salem, Oregon. You spearheaded a public education program to protect a stream near Cleveland, Ohio. You planted a beech tree at an elementary school in Middletown, Rhode Island. And you taught schoolchildren about groundwaters in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Each of these acts touched a community, and together they are improving our Nation. All of you are meeting your responsibility to our country's natural spaces, and our Government is doing the same. America's air and water are cleaner today than they were in 2001. My budget for the coming year fulfills my commitment in 2001 to spend \$4.9 billion over 5 years to improve our national parks and to make our parks more inviting and accessible to all Americans.

We're implementing the Clear Skies rule to cut powerplant emissions by 70 percent. Under the farm bill I signed in 2002, we will provide \$40 billion over 10 years to help our farmers and ranchers protect wetlands, water quality, and wildlife habitats. I've pledged to restore, improve, and protect 3 million acres of wetlands over the next 5 years. To safeguard our forests and woodlands against fire damage, I've signed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. And since I took office, the Departments of Interior and Agriculture have

removed hazardous fuels from more than 10 million acres of Federal land.

Across America, we're working with State and local governments to accelerate the cleanup and redevelopment of old industrial sites. We're working hard to improve our environment, and so are you. Each of you here today has worked hard. You've been idealistic in the right way, and you've been dedicated. I know your parents are proud of you. Your communities are proud of you, and so is your President.

So it is now my great honor to welcome the 2005 winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The Acting Administrator will do the duties.

[*At this point, Acting Administrator Stephen L. Johnson introduced the award recipients from each region, and the President congratulated them.*]

**The President.** Listen, thank you all for coming. We're proud to have you here in the White House. I want to welcome and congratulate our students again. I really want to welcome your parents too. You've done a good job. And I want to thank your teachers. Teaching is a noble profession. We hope you enjoy the White House as much as Laura and I do.

God bless you all. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deborah Johnson, wife of Acting Administrator Johnson of the Environmental Protection Agency, and their son, Matthew Johnson.

### **Statement on Senate Confirmation of John D. Negroponte as Director of National Intelligence**

*April 21, 2005*

I commend the Senate for moving quickly to confirm John Negroponte as the first Director of National Intelligence. I congratulate John on his confirmation, and I look forward to working closely with him. As the DNI, Ambassador Negroponte will lead a unified intelligence community as it reforms and adapts to the new challenges of the 21st century. The United States continues to make progress in the global war on terror

against the enemies of freedom who target innocent civilians and seek weapons of mass destruction. I appreciate John's willingness to once again serve his country and the many men and women who serve in the intelligence community.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Action on Energy Legislation**

*April 21, 2005*

I commend the House for taking an important step to secure our energy future and to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The House energy legislation is largely consistent with the key objectives of my comprehensive national energy policy: increasing conservation and efficiency, expanding domestic production in environmentally responsible ways, diversifying our energy supply with more renewables and clean fuels, and modernizing our energy infrastructure. For more than a decade, our Nation has not had a sensible, balanced, and comprehensive energy strategy. An energy bill will help us make better use of the energy supplies we have and will make our supply of energy more affordable and more secure for the future. I look forward to swift Senate action so that I can sign a bill into law by August.

### **Statement on Senate Action on Appropriations Legislation for Afghanistan, Iraq, and the War on Terror**

*April 21, 2005*

I applaud the Senate for its strong bipartisan support for our troops and our continued effort to win the war on terror. New democracies are taking root in Iraq and Afghanistan, and America is proud to stand with them. Both countries are assuming greater responsibility for their own security, which will help our troops return home as quickly as possible with the honor they have earned. I urge the House and Senate to reach a final agreement that focuses taxpayer dollars on providing the tools our troops and diplomats

need now, so that I can sign a bill into law as soon as possible.

### **Memorandum on Effective Dates of Provisions in Title I of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004**

*April 21, 2005*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of National Intelligence*

*Subject: Effective Dates of Provisions in Title I of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*

Subsection 1097(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458, December 17, 2004) (the Act) provides:

- (a) IN GENERAL—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection 1097(a) clearly contemplates that one or more of the provisions in Title I of the Act may take effect earlier than the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of the Act, but does not state explicitly the mechanism for determining when such earlier effect shall occur, leaving it to the President in the execution of the Act. Moreover, given that section 1097(a) evinces a legislative intent to afford the President flexibility, and such flexibility is constitutionally appropriate with respect to intelligence matters (see *United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corporation*, 299 U.S. 304 (1936)), the executive branch shall construe section 1097(a) to authorize the President to select different effective dates that precede the 6-month deadline for different provisions in Title I.

Therefore, pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America,